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AUG 18 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 15, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

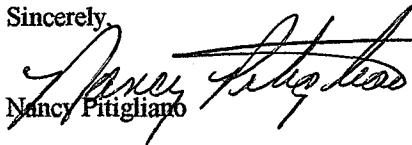
I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21. I also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan, so we who must abide by it can understand how we fit into the plan.

My husband and I farm 5000 acres of orchard and field crops in Tulare County. We provide for wildlife in our farming operation. Cal-Fed should conduct habitat-restoration work on existing government owned land before it begins acquiring more land.

The government already owns half the land in California, yet 75 percent of the wildlife exists on privately owned land. We have done a better job of maintaining habitat than has the government. We take seriously our roles of stewards of the environment and wish to be partners with the government. Cal-Fed should encourage landowners to enhance voluntary habitat-conservation efforts.

Cal-Fed needs to move more quickly to develop surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has made in the past. We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's environment and economy unless new storage with additional yield comes on line soon.

Sincerely,


Nancy Pitigliano

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Rep. Calvin Dooley

Governor Gray Davis
State Sen. Jim Costa
Assembly Member Sarah Reyes

Tulare County Supervisors